

# Meeting Minutes 20151110

Town of Underhill  
Energy Committee  
10 November 2015

## DRAFT MINUTES

### CALL TO ORDER

Jerry Adams, Peter Duval, Steve Webster, and Chris Miller in attendance, the regular meeting was called to order at 6:35pm in the Town Hall Kitchen, with Chris in the chair and Peter D. recording minutes as secretary. (Bob Murphy arrived at 6:40)

### Agenda

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Underhill Landfill  
Home Energy Visits  
Solar Siting  
Street Lighting

### Public Comment

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None

### Minutes

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#### MOTION

Steve MOVED, and Jerry SECONDED, to accept the minutes of 13 Oct 2015 as submitted. PASSED UNANIMOUSLY.

### Underhill Landfill

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Chris wrote a letter to the Veves, declining to pursue the solar farm further with them. They thanked us and offered to be a consulting resource.

6:42 (Bob Murphy arrives)

Jerry contacted Ross Environment, and learned that all monitoring well contaminants continue to decline without spikes. He emailed the state to find out whether other towns are pursuing landfill solar projects. Milton may be. Vermont Electric Co-op has a 2 MW net metering cap and is not accepting projects until the Westman project in Cambridge is resolved.

Chris observed that we would need expert opinion to assuage the selectboard's concern about the integrity of the landfill. Discussion of the landfill ensued.

Chris noted that the project would not be particularly lucrative, but that the committee's interest is in encouraging renewable energy projects.

Peter suggested that the committee visit the site, and visit the Waterbury well-head solar farm, and that the committee investigate the microclimate and insolation at the landfill to see if it would be productive. He also suggested estimating heating degree days and other measures. Jerry suggested setting up a test panel at the landfill.

7:05

#### Home Energy Visits

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It was determined that there is insufficient energy to undertake more home energy visits.

#### Street Lighting

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Bob reviewed the procedure for street light replacement, noting that the Efficiency Vermont incentives are fully subscribed for 2015. He submitted the paperwork to Efficiency Vermont. An engineering study would need to be done, the selectboard would then agree to a memorandum of understanding with the utilities, recouping their investment in old streetlights. The project would be undertaken later next year. Jerry noted that this would need to be in next year's (FY2017) budget.

The town garage lights have been installed.

The committee does not have a budget for future projects. Chris anticipates reviewing projects and budgeting in the spring.

(7:17 Bob departed the meeting)

#### Solar Siting

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Chris asked for an update on solar siting regulation. Jerry reported that there has been no action on solar siting. Jerry feels that a "visual impact study" is a better way to consider siting than to specify dimensional setbacks. Cynthia Seybolt circulated a proposed addendum to the town plan.

Peter suggested that the committee could actively study development and siting and recommend a way to achieve given levels of energy project development.

7:36

#### Outdoor Lighting Standards

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Chris introduced the topic and asked Peter to begin the discussion and find reference points for crafting a lighting standards. Peter said that he wanted to approach the issue dark sky from a health perspective. He sees it as part of a cluster of issues related to sleep, affected by screens, LED lights and outdoor lighting. Additionally dark sky is for access to nature, stargazing and energy conservation.

He discussed the ordering of effort, making behavior and conservation changes first and then identify the technology to support the new behavior, rather than do technology substitution.

7:45

#### State Energy Plan

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Postponed to next meeting.

#### Member Items

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Steve said that he intended to resign from the committee.

#### ADJOURNMENT

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On a MOTION by Steve, seconded by Jerry, the meeting was unanimously adjourned at 8:02pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Peter Duval, Secretary

Approved \_\_\_\_\_  
date: \_\_\_\_\_

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Chris Miller, Chair